**Scientific Advisory Group**

**Back ground:** Jerry established a taskforce which was supposed to prepare a draft of the Research Framework for Africa RISING. The task force was initially led by Bruno Gerard, CIMMYT. Sieg Snapp (MSU), David Harris (ICRISAT, Stan Wood, Jerry, and Diego Valdebuena (ILRI) were members. Diego later led the group for a short time.

The rough draft was revised by a team of IITA and ILRI scientists in July in Ibadan. Then inputs from a wider group of Africa RISING implementers were received in at a subsequent 3 days workshop also in Ibadan.

At a meeting among some of the PCT members in July in Ibadan, it was suggested to convert the ad hoc task force into a permanent science advisory group.

As potential members were mentioned:

Maggie Gill, DfID  
Bruno Gerard, CIMMYT  
Dave Harris (ICRISAT)  
Bernard van Lauwe (IITA)  
Some CRSP representatives  
USAID gender person  
Jerry Glover (USAID)  
3 Project chief scientists.

This team with this composition was meant to primarily review all scientific documents produced by the three projects and give some independent oversight of the science. Therefore, people who were already familiar with Africa RISING were proposed.

The Steering Committee of the ESA Project at its meeting in October 2012 was of the opinion that an independent standing science advisory panel would send very strong messages on the importance of the program and its research. For this purpose, the membership should be different and not have the scientists implementing the projects as members. It should also have a balance between African and non- African members. Social science should be represented. Some eminent experts should be attracted. Its role should be well defined, including its influence on the research carried out by the Program. It should have a chair and meet regularly in person.

The meeting recommended to give this group more thoughts and constitute it towards the middle of 2013.  
  
Africa RISING has a similar structure and similar objectives as the CGIAR Humidtropics CRP. It would be logical, that the Africa RISING Science Advisory Group would follow the ToR and composition of the Humidtropics Advisory Committee.

Bolow are the ToR for the Humidtropicis Advisory Committee and its proposed composition:

*The Advisory Committee will have a major advisory role on Humidtropics on priority setting, partnerships, the strategic allocation of resources, and external linkages, to ensure that the needed set of Partners and Centers participate to achieve the goals and objectives of Humidtropics. Having an Advisory Committee ensures independence of the Humidtropics’ programmatic directions, shields the Lead Center from real or perceived conflict of interest, while still being accountable to the Lead Center. The Advisory Committee is composed of individuals that comprise R4D expertise and insights from diverse public and private sector partners such as farmer organizations, NGOs, Private sector, IARCs, NARs, and ARIs. The 8-person gender-balanced team is composed of 1 representative each from Tropical Americas, Asia and Africa following the general expertise and insight criteria, 3 individuals identified for their specific expertise including a Gender Specialist, Communication & Partnership Specialist and Systems Specialist, and 2 co-opted individuals on identified needs’ basis. The IITA-DG and a 2nd center DG, recommended by the Consortium in collaboration with the ISPC, will be observers on this committee.*

*The Lead Center’s Board will formally appoint the Advisory Committee. The Lead Center Board and the project’s Primary Partners will select the Committee members and Chair for the first year. Thereafter, the Committee will nominate its Chair and members, to be ratified by the lead Center Board and the Primary Partners. Committee membership will be for 3 years. Terms of 2-4 years in the initial year may be used to staggered turnover of members or continuity of the Chair’s position. The Committee may recommend renewal of the appointment of a Committee member, once, at the end of his or her term. The Committee will meet twice per year, one of its meetings arranged back-to-back with the Lead Center Board.*

*The committee’s role is to:*

*       Review the global program performance and the relevance of its outcomes.*

*       Make recommendations to Executive Director, Lead Center Board, and Individual Partners on opportunities for enhanced performance of the program, strategic alliances with partners, and effective engagement of R4D capacities towards greater impact.*

*       Advise the Lead Center and Executive Director on approval of the proposed workplans and budgets.*

*       Make recommendations to Executive Director, Lead Center Board, and Individual Partners on principles that assist the IITA DG in conflict resolution.*

       *Periodically review the principles that guide resource allocation between projects, Primary and other partners, and the use of internal and external capacities and make recommendations to Executive Director, Lead Center Board, and Individual Partners on changes needed.*

*The Chair of the Advisory Committee will be required to prepare an annual report to the Center Board, Primary Partners, and Executive Director. The Chair will liaise with the DG of the Lead Center and the Executive Director as needed. The Executive Director will provide quarterly progress reports to Primary Partners who are required to regularly update their constituencies on relevant progress and alert them to any emerging opportunities or threats that are of significance.*

*The Advisory Committee is composed of individuals that comprise R4D expertise and insights from diverse public and private sector partners such as:*

*1. Farmer organizations,*

*2. NGOs,*

*3. Private sector,*

*4. IARCs,*

*5. NARs,*

*6. ARIs.*

*The 8-person gender-balanced team is composed of:*

*1 representative Tropical Americas*

*1 representative Tropical Asia*

*1 representative Tropical Africa*

*1 Gender Specialist*

*1 Systems Specialist*

*1 Communication & Partnership Specialist*

*2 co-opted individuals on identified needs’ basis.*

*Observers on the committee:*

*1. IITA-DG*

*1. Program Participant CGIAR Center DG*